

Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 L-03

NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 ARA-11 EA-11 EUR-25

NEA-10 RSR-01 /165 W

----- 116200

R 180950 Z JUN 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9862

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CAPTOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

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E. O.11652 NA

TAGS ILO, PFOR, AORG, SF

SUBJ WORKERS MEETING ON APARTHEID, GENEVA, JUNE 15-16.

1. THE TWO- DAY MEETING ON APARTHEID, ORGANIZED BY THE WORKER DELEGATES TO THE ILO CONFERENCE, UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED THE " RESOLUTION FOR ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID". MOST OF THE LIBERATION GROUPS WERE INVITED AS OBSERVERS AND MADE PRESENTATIONS.

2. IN BRIEF THE RESOLUTION CONDEMNED THE POLICY OF APARTHEID AND ITS EXTENSION TO NAMIBIA; EXPRESSED SOLIDARITY WITH WORKERS OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THEIR RECENT STRIKE ACTION; APPROVED UNITED NATIONS EFFORT TO ELIMINATE APARTHEID; CONDEMNED THE COLONIAL GOVERNMENTS OF PORTUGAL AND ILLEGAL REGIME IN SALISBURY; CRITICIZED FOREIGN EMPLOYERS AND INVESTORS AND MENTIONED THAT WHITE IMMIGRATION TO SOUTH AFRICA REINFORCES THE POLICY OF APARTHEID.

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3. THE RESOLUTION CONTINUED AND RECOMMENDED THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

REQUESTED THE UNITED NATIONS TO INTENSIFY ANTI-APARTHEID ACTIVITIES. INVITED EMPLOYER ORGANIZATIONS TO TAKE MEASURES TO SANCTION THEIR MEMBERS WHO MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA.

URGES WORKERS AND THEIR TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO APPLY PRESSURE ON THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO REFUSE TO SUPPLY MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH AFRICA; TO CLOSE THEIR PORTS AND AIRPORTS TO SOUTH AFRICAN SHIPS AND PLANES AND BY CALLING FOR EXCLUSION OF SOUTH AFRICA FROM THE UNITED NATIONS. ALSO TO OPPOSE IMMIGRATION OF SKILLED LABOR TO SOUTH AFRICA; PRESSURING EMPLOYERS WITH BRANCHES IN SOUTH AFRICA TO ABOLISH WAGE DISCRIMINATION; BOYCOTTING SPORTING AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN WHICH REPRESENTATIVES OF SOUTH AFRICA TAKE PART; AND REQUESTING THE UNITED NATIONS TO HAVE A SPECIAL WEEK DEVOTED TO THE SUBJECT AND CONSIDER WORKER REPRESENTATION ON THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON APARTHEID. THE FULL TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION WILL BE FORWARDED SEPARATELY.

4. THE AFL- CIO IN GENERAL TERMS SUPPORTED THE THEME OF THE RESOLUTION WHILE NOT AGREEING ON EVERY POINT AND FOR THAT REASON VOTED FOR THE RESOLUTION.

5. BERT SEIDMAN, U. S. WORKER DELEGATE REPRESENTING THE AFL- CIO, IN HIS PRESENTATION SPOKE OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RECENT STRIKE ACTION IN SOUTH AFRICA. HE REVIEWED THE RECENT MEETING OF THE AALC IN BOTSWANA WITH SOUTH AFRICAN REPRESENTATIVES OF BLACK GROUPS AND THE TRADE UNION CONGRESS OF SOUTH AFRICA (TUCSA). IN CONCLUSION HE STATED, " LET US GO FORTH FROM THIS CONFERENCE RESOLVED TO GIVE SUPPORT TO OUR SOUTH AFRICAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS BY FOLLOWING THEIR LEAD IN THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AND SOCIAL JUSTICE THEY ARE CARRYING ON NOT JUST FOR THEMSELVES BUT FOR ALL MANKIND."

6. LUCY MVUBELO SOUTH AFRICAN REPRESENTING BLACK GARMENT WORKERS, WAS NOT PERMITTED TO MAKE A PRESENTATION. THE COMMITTEE WHICH ARRANGED THE MEETING CONCLUDED THAT MVUBELO, AN UNINVITED OBSERVER, WAS NOT ELIGIBLE TO SPEAK. THEY ASKED HER NOT TO SPEAK AND SHE AGREED. HOWEVER, SHE SUBMITTED HER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAPER AND IT WAS ACCEPTED FOR INCLUSION IN THE FINAL REPORT.

7. ARTHUR GROBBELAAR, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE TUCSA, AND SEVERAL OTHER WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS WERE PRESENT BUT DID NOT MAKE ANY FORMAL PRESENTATION.

8. GOLER BUTCHER, LEGAL COUNSEL TO THE CONGRESSIONAL
SUB- COMMITTEE ON AFRICA, OBSERVED THE MEETING AND
MET WITH PARTICIPANTS. BASSIN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973GENEVA02914
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730621/aaaajcmu.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Oct-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980209; srp 980209
Subject: WOKERS MEETING ON APARTHEID, GENEVA, JUNE 15-16
TAGS: AORG, PFOR, SF, ILO
To: IO
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO CAPETOWN
DURBAN
JOHANNESBURG
MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

